

Essays and Contributions.

HUMAN GUIDANCE.

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That the human family is destined to be guided may not be successfully denied by any one. Without being guided it could not continue its existence. It is guided from the cradle to the grave. One of the most important favors which is conferred upon it is the priceless one of a good guide.

Three grand organizations have been authorized by divine authority.

First the common family, this holy organization, was formed by the great Creator Himself. God brought all living creatures unto Adam unto whom was bestowed the God given gift of sufficient intelligence to give names to all beasts of the field, and fowls of the air. But for Adam there was not found an helpmeet. God did not look upon man as complete in his mission, until He provided an "help-meet" for him and formed them into the sacred union which is called, "family." This is the means for guiding of loved ones intrusted to this sacred union.

The Second institution is political, appointed for the purpose of devising and executing measures for the public welfare. Moses, the great leader of Israel, was called by the Lord at the burning bush after living a life of seclusion from his kindred and royal friends for forty years. God called him to lead His people from Egyptian bondage to a land which flowed with milk and honey. And after he had lead, by the hand of God, the great host of Israel, out from bondage, and crossed the Red Sea and sang their song of triumph, then Jethro, the priest of Midian, rejoiced for all the goodness which the Lord had done to Israel. Jethro the prince of Midian, was of no mean origin. He was the father-in-law of Moses. Exodus, 4, 18. and the first born of Gideon's seventy sons. Jud, 8, 20. and the father of Amasa captain general of Absalom's army, and the son of Jada, a descendant of Heyron of the tribe of Judah. Chron. ii, 32. Moses spent the forty years of his exile from Egypt with him and married his daughter Zipporah.

By the advice of Jethro, Moses appointed deputies to Judge the congregation of Israel and share the burden of government with himself.

When Jethro heard of Moses' success through the power of God he rejoiced, and took Zipporah and her two sons and brought them unto Moses and Moses entertained them. Jethro said unto Moses hearken now unto my voice, I will give the counsel and God be with thee and thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws. Thou shalt provide out of the people able men such as fear God, and place over them to be rulers of thousands and rulers of hundreds and fifties and rulers of tens. Exodus, xviii, 25. A political body was organized thousands of years ago and able men such as fear God only had the right to rule the people which was for the welfare of the people, so that they may dwell together in unity and love. Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers, for there is no power but God, the powers that be are ordained of God. Rom. iii, 1.

Two important bodies are shown us, which carry into effect the proper means of human guidance and which qualify us to enter the third and most grand institution on earth, whose guide or light is the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God who being the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the majesty on high. Heb. i, 3. Such is He who is the author of the third, and most glorious organization, explaining the mysterious future concerning human life.

This institution not only prepares us to live peaceable, and prosperous on earth, but is the means of guiding every son and daughter of Adam's race home to the Father's mansions on high, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. This same one at first appeared to the people, in the humble form which we so plainly find inscribed in His holy Testament, with the account of the bright guiding star of Bethlehem standing over him, and surrounded with the glory of God, and the heavenly host who joined the illustrious coronation in exclaiming, "glory to God,

in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Yet with all the heavenly grandeur which surrounded the birth of king Jesus, the most earnest who possessed the true faith in God, could but faintly understand the annunciation of the angel, who said unto them, "Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is called Christ the Lord." And this is He whose fame has spread over all the enlightened world, and whose illustrious character has dazzled all the world, in the gracious disposition which he so overflowingly manifested.

Even at the age of twelve years he was found among the doctors and lawyers disputing with them to their surprise. He went about doing good. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, opened the ears of the deaf and cast out devils and was tender and sympathetic to all. Many other things Jesus did, which, if they should be written even the world itself could not contain the books. St John, xxi, 25. When Jesus was thirty years old he came unto John to be baptized of him.

At our Savior's baptism, God manifested to the people the most striking demonstration of His sanction in this act. The heavens were opened and the spirit of God descended upon him, and the voice of God was heard from heaven, which said, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased." And now Jesus was arrayed with Almighty power to enter upon His solemn mission.

The benevolent Redeemer of mankind called his disciples to him, and chose twelve, whom he named Apostles to be with him that they might learn from his own mouth the doctrine they were to preach to the whole world, that that they might see his glory, the transcendent glory of the virtues which adorned his human life; that they might be witnesses of all the wonderful works that he should perform during his earthly residence and by which his mission from the courts of heaven was to be fully demonstrated. These twelve persons thus qualified were to supply the people with that spiritual food they so greatly stood in need of,